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## Book Notices.

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### Prayer.

*Prayer as a Theory and a Fact.* By Rev. D. W. Faunce, D. D. New York: American Tract Society. Pp. 250. Price \$1.00.

The writer of this book has given a very thoughtful and interesting treatment of the important subject of prayer. His method and the scope of his plan are such as to make the book one of the most thorough-going and exhaustive treatises which has ever been produced. Hardly any one of the modern difficulties with, or objections to, prayer is passed over without at least notice and comment. The biblical element is not, indeed, emphasized as, perhaps, it ought to be, though it is not by any means absent. The writer's power, however, does not lie along the line of biblical exegesis, e. g. his discussion of the Lord's Prayer being not particularly valuable. He excels in practical suggestions and his consideration of the questions about prayer rising out of natural science is fresh and vigorous. The book as a whole will broaden and edify. It is a good summing up of the whole question as it stands at the present time. Among other striking passages we note especially the argument to show how sin has broadened and deepened the scope of prayer, the comparison of the possible prayer offered in the sinless Eden with that of the redeemed Christian. One cannot entirely agree with his description of the Old Testament prophets as "cometary men . . . rushing in from outside," though his treatment of prophecy as having "a vital glance" into an illimitable future beyond all past and present fulfilment is thoroughly good. We note some minor slips. *Le Conte* is turned into "*Le Compt*" on p. 115; Sir Samuel Romilly becomes *Romelly*; *Momerie* is syncopated to "*Momrie*." Ignoring the firm results of textual criticism the writer would regard the doxology of the Lord's Prayer as an original part of it, a position utterly untenable. The "Word" of John's Prologue is defined as "Promise," which is scarcely acceptable. It is rather "Revelation." The mother of Zebedee's children is said to be "nameless." There is no doubt that her name was *Salome*. We confess to a slight feeling of uneasiness about the chapter on "the circular motion of Prayer." Many fine images and much glowing language are used about the circle as the normal line of movement for all creation and thus prayer is said to come from God to man and from man to return to God. Just why such a movement should be called circular is not so clear. Why not elliptical? Why not re-curent along a straight line? Indeed we are inclined to think that the writer is often led away by a kind of cloudy magnificence of diction into many vague utterances and some needless repetition. But apart from all this the philosophical method and the evangelical spirit of the book are most excellent. Some of the chapters are as follows: The Possibility of Prayer, Its Proba-

bility, The Kingdom of God and Prayer, Prayer and Natural Law, Negative Answers to Prayer, The Reactions of Sin as they induce Prayer, Prayer in its Prophecy.

### Christ in the New Testament.

*Christ in the New Testament.* By Thomas A. Tidball, D. D. With an Introduction by S. D. McConnell, D. D. New York: Thomas Whittaker, 1891. Pp. 357. Price \$1.25.

Mr. Thomas Whittaker, the New York publisher, through whose publishing house the scholars of the Protestant Episcopal church issue many of their books, has recently put forth no small number of excellent works on biblical subjects. This volume, bearing his imprint, is one of them. It consists of a collection of ten lectures, originally delivered before the Church-Woman's Institute of Philadelphia. The plan of the book embraces the study of the New Testament writings in the order in which they stand in our English Version with a view to ascertain what portrait of Jesus Christ each group presents. The idea is a very fruitful one and has been wrought out admirably by Dr. Tidball. The work would have been both more valuable and more scientific, as well as fresh, if the Books had been taken up in chronological order as far as possible, and thus a gradually developing portrait have been produced, the culminating and finishing touches being given by St. John. The author is familiar with the best modern work on the Scriptures and heartily in sympathy with it. He says, "For myself, I believe most thankfully that the modern critical study of the Bible has been in the main eminently helpful to Christian faith and to a right use of the Bible by the Christian believer." He quotes approvingly from Professor Ladd's writings on the Bible. Very little of the especially sectarian element appears in the work. Together with Dr. Dale's book, noticed in these pages, which discusses the authority of the New Testament and its authenticity, this volume, amply supplementing it, by its proof that the various writings of the New Testament itself are witnesses to the same Christ, will be a useful addition to the library of a student of the Bible.

### Christ and the Gospels.

*The Living Christ and the Four Gospels.* By R. W. Dale, LL. D. New York: A. C. Armstrong and Son. 1890. Pp. ix., 299. Price \$1.50.

This book contains fourteen lectures delivered by Dr. Dale of Birmingham to the congregation of Carrs Lane Chapel. His aim in them is to present in a popular way the argument for the apostolic origin and historical credibility of the material in the four Gospels, to show that the portrait of the Christ which they present is the authentic portrait of that Christ who lived and walked among men. The first four lectures discuss the argument for the historicity of the gospels which is derived from Christian experience. This argument Dr. Dale regards as fundamental to the whole question. Christianity in his opinion will stand, if the Bible should fall, since in the souls of the believers in Jesus Christ is the certainty of His living and abiding presence—substantially the same Jesus of whom these writings tell us. The remaining lectures discuss the historical evidence for the Gospels in detail. Chapters are given on Eusebius, Clement and Tertullian, Irenæus, Tatian, Justin Martyr, Marcion,